

SHALLOW RANGE SITE

1. TOPOGRAPHY

- a. This site occurs on nearly level to very steep uplands. Slopes are commonly from 3 to 50 percent.

2. SOILS

- a. These are shallow soils from 10 to 20 inches in depth overlying weathered bedrock. Rooting depth is restricted and available water capacity is low to very low.
- b. Soil taxonomic units common to this site are:

Cabba loam
Cabbart loam, silt loam, and silty clay loam
Fleak loamy fine sand, fine sandy loam, and sandy loam
Yawdim silty clay loam

Refer to Section II-A for a complete list of soil taxonomic units and range sites.

3. POTENTIAL VEGETATION

- a. This site is dominated by a mixture of cool and warm season mid-grasses. Some trees and shrubs are natural to the site, particularly on north-facing slopes. Principal species are needleandthread, little bluestem, prairie sandreed, plains muhly, sideoats grama, and western wheatgrass. Other species are blue grama, red threeawn, prairie junegrass, and green needlegrass. Forbs make up a minor part of the vegetation. Important forbs are black sampson, hairy goldaster, and dotted gayfeather. A wide variety of shrubs make up about 10 percent of the total herbage production.
- b. Continued heavy grazing by cattle results in a decrease of little bluestem, needleandthread, prairie sandreed, plains muhly, and western wheatgrass. Plants that increase with overuse are blue grama, red threeawn, threadleaf sedge, and other upland sedges. Further deterioration of the site results in a dominance of blue grama, red threeawn, upland sedges, undesirable forbs and shrubs.
- c. Approximate total annual production of this site in excellent condition is from 900 to 1400 pounds of air-dry herbage per acre, depending on growing conditions. Percent of the ground covered by living or dead vegetation is about 90 percent.

2--Shallow Range Site

- d. A detailed description of the vegetation in excellent condition is as follows:

Relative Percent Composition of the Potential Vegetation

	Mean Productivity	
	lbs/acre	% composition
Grasses		
Needleandthread	173	15
Little bluestem	231	20
Prairie sandreed	115	10
Plains muhly	57	5
Blue grama	115	10
Sideoats grama	58	5
Western wheatgrass	57	5
Plains reedgrass		
Red threeawn		
Prairie junegrass	57	5
Porcupinegrass		
Green needlegrass		
Other grasses		
Grasslikes		
Penn sedge		
Threadleaf sedge	115	10
Other grasslikes		
Forbs		
Black sampson		
Hairy goldaster		
Dotted gayfeather	57	5
Prairie coneflower		
Rush skeletonweed		
Other forbs		
Shrubs and half-shrubs		
Fringed sagebrush		
Broom snakeweed		
Creeping juniper		
Rocky Mt. juniper	115	10
Greenplume rabbitbrush		
Skunkbush sumac		
Other shrubs		
Total	1150	100

3--Shallow Range Site

4. DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING VALUE

- a. This site is suitable for both cattle and sheep grazing since it provides a wide variety of forage plants. The best seasons of grazing are summer and fall. Good protection is also provided for winter grazing.

5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE

- a. This site provides much of the natural habitat of the mule deer. Some white-tailed deer also use the site. Sites with shrubs and trees provide forage and cover for big game, small mammals, and upland birds. Small mammals common to the site are the cotton-tail rabbit, coyote, porcupine, and badger. Upland birds that use the site are the sharp-tailed grouse, mourning dove, lark bunting, and chestnut-collared longspur. Songbirds that are frequently found and associated with woody plants are the brown thrasher, yellow warbler, eastern kingbird, and phoebes.

6. ESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES

- a. This site makes up a dominant part of the badlands landscape. The varied topography, plant life, and color offer scenery and beauty to the outdoor enthusiast. Recreational activities common to this site are hunting, hiking, horseback riding, bird watching, and rock hounding.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS

- a. This site is of large extent in the badlands. Runoff is medium to rapid on good and excellent condition, properly grazed sites depending upon slopes. Water transmission rate of the soil is moderate or high.

8. A TYPICAL SITE LOCATION IN THIS AREA IS AS FOLLOWS

